

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /112 W

-----044978 171406Z /53

R 171000Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9220

INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE POUCH

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNINT HAVANA 013

AMCONSUL BUKAVU POUCH

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3775

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE-CONGO RELATIONS

REF: A) BRAZZAVILLE 0381 (NOTAL), B) MONROVIA 2377 (NOTAL)

1. RUMOR (REF A) OF SOVIET AND CUBAN TROOPS STAGING IN POINTE NOIRE TO PROVIDE EVENTUAL SUPPORT TO ZAIRIAN DISSIDENTS STRIKES US AS TYPICAL OF THE IDLE SPECULATION IN WHICH SOME ILL-INFORMED MEMBERS OF KINSHASA'S DIPLOMATIC CORPS FREQUENTLY ENGAGE. ALTHOUGH MOBUTU IS QUICK TO SEIZE UPON ANY INDICATION, HOWEVER TENUOUS, OF SOVIET-CUBAN SUBVERSION, WE DO NOT BELIEVE HE HAS BOTHERED TO PICK THIS ONE UP. EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO AGREE WITH BRAZZAVILLE'S ESTIMATE (PARA 8, REF A) THAT TREND IN ZAIRIAN-CONFIDENTIAL

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CONGOLESE RELATIONS IS BASICALLY TO IMPROVE. MOBUTU APPEARS TO REGARD PRESIDENT YHOMBY AS KEY POSITIVE FORCE IN THIS RESPECT, AND HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH HIM.

2. THE RUMOR NEVERTHELESS SERVES TO ILLUSTRATE THE OBSTACLE TO IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN KINSHASA AND BRAZZAVILLE WHICH

THE SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE IN THE CONGO IS LIKELY TO POSE IN
THE MONTHS AHEAD. AS DEPT. IS AWARE, MOBUTU HAS SHOWN GROWING
CONCERN OVER WHAT HE VIEWS AS SOVIET-CUBAN "ENCIRCLEMENT" OF ZAIRE.
WHILE MOBUTU'S MAJOR CONCERN REMAINS ANGOLA, HE IS KEEPING
SHARP EYE ON OTHER CONTIGUOUS AREAS AND UNDOUBTEDLY SUSPECTS
THAT SUCH OFFICIALS AS CONGOLESE DEFENSE MINISTER SASSOU-
NGUESSO ARE SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN WHAT MOBUTU PERCEIVES AS
CONTINUING SOVIET-CUBAN EFFORTS TO OVERTHROW HIM.
CUTLER

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